

apparently vary considerably in shape and size. Three eggs, from three different nests, had the following dimensions: 1.64 x 1.21 cm.; 1.76 x 1.31 cm. and 1.94 x 1.31 cm.

The stomachs of adult birds have been found to contain mostly insect fragments, but a few seeds are also usually present. The birds have not been observed to seek water-holes although for six months of the year there is no surface water available in their habitat. However they spend the heat of the day in the shade of tussocks.

References

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The Races of the Longtail, *Prinia polychroa* (Temminck), with the description of a new race from Southern Annam

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Received 11th September, 1956

Stuart Baker long ago pointed out (*Fauna of British India, Birds*, ed. 2, 2: 522, 1924) that Annam specimens of what he conceived to be "*Suya crinigera cooki*" were darker and much more rufescent than the true *cooki* of Burma. In my earlier study of the genus *Prinia* in south-eastern Asia (*Smiths. Misc. Coll.* 103 (3): 9-11, 1st Sept., 1942), submerging the genus *Suya* in *Prinia*, and placing *cooki* and numerous other forms in the species *polychroa*, I followed Baker in using the name *cooki* for Annam birds. Material since collected in southern Annam by Joseph F. Rock now shows that the characters mentioned by Baker are consistent in series and that the population needs a name, which may be

Prinia polychroa rocki, subsp. nov.

Type: U.S. Nat. Mus. No. 361149, adult male in fresh winter plumage, collected at Fimnon (lat. 11° 47' N., long 108° 24' E.), southern Annam, in November 1939, by Joseph F. C. Rock (collector's number 1046).

Diagnosis: Whereas *cooki* of central and eastern Thailand, southern Laos, and Cambodia (no topotypical skins available) has, in summer plumage, the under parts dull buff, posteriorly brighter, *rocki* has these parts bright buff, posteriorly suffused with rufescent; similarly, in winter plumage, while *cooki* has the under parts bright buff, posteriorly suffused with rufescent, *rocki* has them rufescent buff, posteriorly a still richer and brighter rufescent, and the upper parts as well much more strongly suffused with rufescent. In short, *cooki* in winter plumage is scarcely separable from *rocki* in summer plumage, although the two are perfectly distinct when the plumages are seasonally compared.

Range: Southern Annam (Lang Bian Plateau at 3,000 feet).

Remarks: In *Bull. Brit. Orn. Club* 42 (264): 53, 3rd Jan., 1922, La Touche named "*Suya crinigera bangsi*" from Mengtsh (lat. 23° 23' N., long. 103° 27' E.) and "*Suya crinigera parvirostris*" from Shuitang (lat. 23° 05' N., long. 103° 40' E.), places in south-eastern Yunnan. Outram Bangs, discussing the type specimens in his charge (*Bull. Mus. Comp. Zool.* 70 (4):

342, March 1930), recognized both, setting up *parvirostris* as a monotypic species. Since that time, La Touche's names have lapsed into oblivion.

The authorities of the Museum of Comparative Zoology have recently kindly sent me all of the original material of La Touche's two forms, and I find myself compelled to agree that two species are in fact represented amongst them. My own allocation of the two sets of paratypes does not wholly coincide with that of La Touche, as indicated by his identifications written on the labels, and I find that both kinds occur at Mengtsh. Since the type of *parvirostris* is of *criniger*-facies, while that of *bangsi* is of *polychroa*-facies, and absolute sympatry appears at Mengtsh, it is plain that I erred in my previous revision in regarding *polychroa* as conspecific with *criniger*.

Prinia polychroa and *Pr. criniger*, as species, are difficult to discriminate, and one must doubt whether the sympatric forms would be separable in life; skins of the two, however, laid out in series, are readily distinguished, whether compared in winter or summer dress. All populations of *criniger*, in unworn plumage, possess minute dusky tips to the feathers of the cheeks and sides of the throat and breast (even in worn plumage traces of these tend to persist on the cheeks), and have conspicuous striations above, especially on the head and anterior mantle; those of *polychroa*, on the other hand, never have the minute dusky tips (although, in overstuffed skins, the dark bases of the feathers may appear) and above have poorly developed striations, obsolescent on the head, and still more so (or even absent) on the anterior mantle.

Prinia polychroa, a species of notably discontinuous distribution and apparently restricted to Java and the Indo-Chinese countries, can be divided into at least four races:

1. *Prinia polychroa polychroa* (Temminck), 1828.

Upper parts dark greyish brown, under parts creamy buff (summer and winter).

Range: Java.

2. *Prinia polychroa cooki* (Harington), 1913.

Upper parts dark brown, faintly washed with rufescent (summer and winter); under parts dull buff, posteriorly brighter (summer), bright buff, posteriorly suffused with rufescent (winter).

Range: Central Burma; ? Central Thailand (Kamphaeng Phet); ? Eastern Thailand (Loei, Ubon, Nakhon Ratchasima), ? Bas-Laos; ? Cambodia.

3. *Prinia polychroa rocki* Deignan, 1957.

Upper parts dark brown, strongly suffused with rufescent (summer), deep rufescent brown (winter); under parts bright buff, posteriorly suffused with rufescent (summer), bright rufescent buff, posteriorly a still richer and brighter rufescent (winter).

Range: Southern Annam (Lang Bian Plateau).

4. *Prinia polychroa bangsi* (La Touche), 1922.

Upper parts dark brown, strongly suffused with rufescent (summer), bright rufescent brown (winter); under parts dull buff, lightly suffused with rufescent, posteriorly brighter (summer), dull rufescent buff (winter).

Range: South-eastern Yunnan.